Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 01844 301821Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /065 W
----------011549 301823Z /43
P R 301800Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 888
INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1844

FOR ASST SEC TODMAN FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TD, US, XL, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: TRINIDADIANS APPLAUD TODMAN TESTIMONY ON THE CARIBBEAN

1. YOUR JUNE 28 TESTIMONY TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SUBCOMMITTEE REGARDING U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE CARIBBEAN HAS HAD OUTSTANDING IMPACT HERE IN TRINIDAD. WE SUCCESS-FULLY GOT FULL TEXT TO THE PRESS LATE JUNE 28 AND BOTH DAILY NEWSPAPERS GAVE LEAD COVERAGE TO YOUR REMARKS IN THEIR JUNE 29 EDITIONS. THE "GUARDIAN" PRINTED THE ENTRIE STATEMENT.

2. IN THE ENSUING TWENTY-FOUR HOURS WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING ENTHUSIASTIC COMMENT FROM ALL SIDES. PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS PERSONALLY TOLD ME LAST NIGHT HOW HIGHLY PLEASED HE WAS AND THAT ANY REMAINING DOUBTS ABOUT THE PRESENT U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE CARIBBEAN HAYEBEEN REMOVED. SEPARATELY, ACTING
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FOREIGN MINISTER PADMORE AND MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE CHAMBERS DISCUSSED YOUR STATMENT WITH ME. THEY FEEL THAT IT IS A FITTING COMPLEMENT TO THE SECRETARY'S VISIT HERE, THAT THE USG IS OBVIOUSLY LISTENING AND REACTING IN A FAR MORE SOPHISTICATED AND DISCRPCBKATING MANNER TOWARD THE REGION, AND THAT NOW THE PUBLIC WILL BE MORE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE

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AND POSITIVE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR
TOW GOVERNMENTS.

3. THE CONTENT AND TIMING OF YOUR STATEMNT ARE BOTH
SEEN AS IMPORTANT AND SIGNIFICANT. IN MY THREE AND
ONE-HALF YEARS HERE I HAVE NEVER FELT SUCH GOTT ENTHUSIASM
OVER AN EVENT IN US-TRINIDAD RELATIONS. THE TESTIMONY
HAS, AS IT WERE, FIRMLY PLACED THE SEAL OF PERMANENCE
AND REALITY ON THE PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH THE
SECRETARY.

4. BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAVE
ASKED ME IF WE COULD OBTAIN A TRANSCRIPT OF THE QUESTIONS
AND ANSWERS WHICH FOLLOWED YOUR PREPARED STATEMENT BEFORE
THE SUBCOMMITTEE. PERHAPS SOMEONE IN YOUR OFFICE CAN
ARRANGE TO HAVE THIS TEXT CABLED OR TRANSMITTED TO US
VIA USIA WIRELESS FILE.

5. SEPARATELY, I INQUIRED OF MINISTER PADMORE REGARD-
ING THE GOTT PROPOSALS FOR BILATERAL LNG
DISCUSSIONS WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER PROMISED THE
SECRETARY WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO US THROUGH DIPLOMATIC
CHANNELS WE FOLLOW-UP TO THE SECRETARY'S MEETING HERE.
PADMORE SAID THE CABINET HAS MET TWICE ON THIS SUBJECT
SINCE THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, AND WE SHOULD RECEIVE
SOMETHING SPECIFIC IN ABOUT TEN DAYS.
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRINIDADIANS APPLAUD TODMAN TESTIMONY ON THE CARIBBEAN
TAGS: OVIP, TD, US, XL, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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